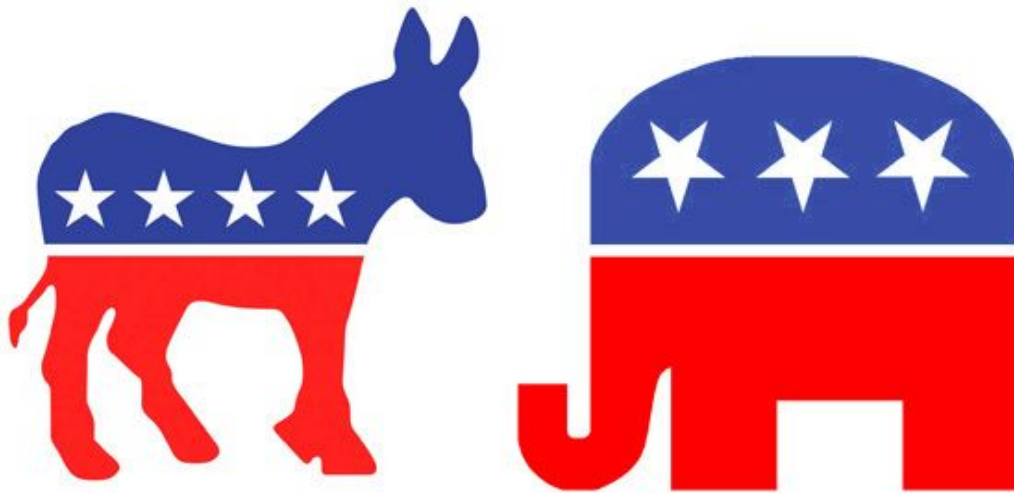


2018 California Election Project



By Rachel Clift

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Section 1:

Propositions



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PREVENT ANIMAL CRUELTY

Section 2:

Governor Race



Media & Culture

- Gavin Newsom has primarily addressed and appealed to homeless voters and low-income Californians. At numerous events throughout his campaign, Newsom has expressed his belief that addressing the state's homelessness issue is his top priority. California currently holds twenty-five percent of the nation's homeless population, coming out to roughly 135,000 individuals statewide without a permanent living situation (Hart para 7). Additional constituencies to which Newsom has appealed include working class mothers and families with his vow to attempt to establish universal prenatal care and preschool; all working class citizens with universal health care; and women by supporting the #MeToo movement and promising to establish stronger workplace protections for females. (Editorial Board para 12). Similarly to Newsom, John Cox has appealed to working and lower class citizens by focusing primarily on problems relating California's homelessness issues and the lack of affordable housing within the state. (Hart para 6). While Cox has not targeted as many particular constituencies with his rhetoric like Newsom has, he has repeatedly appealed to working class voters by speaking of lowering taxes (including supporting prop 6,

which would repeal the gas tax) as well as lowering renting prices; however, he has not expressed specifically how he intends to go about fixing these issues (Willon para 1).

- Poll 1: September 27, 2018. Results: Newsom - 51%, Cox - 39%. Source: Public Policy Institute of California. Brief Description: This data shows that Newsom holds a fairly steady lead over Cox in the 2018 California gubernatorial election.
Poll 2: October 25, 2018. Results: Newsom - 49%, Cox - 38%. Source: Public Policy Institute of California. Brief Description: While this data shows that Newsom has fallen slightly in the polls and that his lead over Cox is slightly smaller than in late September, Newsom still shows a steady lead over Cox, and still stands in a very good position to win.
- Overall, the media coverage of Newsom's ideals appear clear and in abundance. His interviews show that he is able to answer most policy questions, specifically about California's homelessness issues and housing crisis ("Gavin Newsom on the Issues"). Additionally, he has given clear responses to inquiries regarding his immigration policies, but has not talked about the issue in great abundance which is odd considering immigration laws and policies are of major concern in the United States, and especially

California which is home to many Latin-American immigrants, as well as others (Editorial Board para 5). John Cox has repeatedly shown that he is lacking in clear ideas and plans for California's growth, especially surrounding education ("Where candidates for governor stand on California's biggest issues" para 28) and housing ("Where candidates for governor stand on California's biggest issues" para 10). In response to questions surrounding these issues, Cox gave short, vague answers, whereas his opponents tended to give longer, more specific answers; for example, when asked about his education policies, Newsom stated that he "supports universal preschool, mandatory kindergarten and state funding for prenatal services, home visits by nurses and helping ensure children ages 1 to 3 become ready for school," and that he will call "for more state funding for higher education, with an emphasis on measures that will enable more students to graduate in four years" ("Where candidates for governor stand on California's biggest issues" para 30). While Newsom still leaves some of his claims and ideas with lack of a detailed explanation, Cox's response to inquiries regarding his education policies was much shorter and more vague with a much stronger lack of detail: "(John Cox) calls for a top-to-bottom review of the state school system and vouchers for low-income families that

could be used at charter, private or parochial schools. Says university professors must teach more classes to cut state costs. (“Where candidates for governor stand on California’s biggest issues” para 28). While he provides basic plans, he gives close to no indication how he plans to carry these ideas out, leaving people unable to make an educated decision.

Parties, Interest Groups, Elections/Nominations/Campaigns

- A few of Newsom’s top contributors include the California Medical Association, Laborers Local 220, the California Association of Professional Scientists, and the California Federation of Teachers (“Gavin Newsom’s Campaign Finances”). Newsom has primarily received contributions from groups representing regular working class citizens such as teachers and electricians, likely because Newsom has spoken abundantly about affordable housing and issues relating to the well-being of middle and lower class families. George Soros has also contributed to Newsom’s campaign (Menezes and Moore table 4). By contrast, Cox has primarily received donations from private business owners, the complete list being himself (he donated \$5.6 million to his own campaign, the largest donation he received by far), Geoff Palmer

(Real estate developer who also contributed to Donald Trump's 2016 presidential campaign), Melba Jean and Floyd Kvamme (The owners of a therapeutic horseback riding center in Santa Cruz), Professional Financial Investors, Inc. (A property investment and management firm), Thomas and Carolyn Dauterman (The owners of Thomas Manufacturing), and Humberto Lopez (The president of HSL Properties Inc.) (Menezes and Moore table 5). This abundance of donations from business owners is likely due to the Republican Party and John Cox's fondness of Capitalism, and giving individual businesses more power in America.

- Gavin Newsom's "California Dream" ad, the candidate argues that "To renew the California dream, we need to renew our promise to our children." He elaborates by describing the promise previously mentioned: "A promise that says every single baby will have quality prenatal care, every toddler can attend preschool, every student has access to high-quality after-school programs and every graduate has meaningful job training and work opportunities" (Willon para 4). In this commercial, Newsom focuses in on children's health and education to assist him in appealing to his audience through pathos.

The ad features shots of Newsom reading to children, and speaking about giving children the best, affordable healthcare from the time they are embryos. His point is most likely that children are the future, and in order to take care of the future of America, we must take care of our children, and ensure that they are taken care of both physically and mentally so they may contribute the most possible to the world and society. John Cox's first and most popular ad titled "Help is on the Way" makes the platforms highlighted throughout his campaign, such as rising homelessness and poverty rates; the lack of affordable housing in California; the gas tax; and the state's infrastructure, the cornerstones of this commercial. Cox seems to be trying to appeal to middle and lower class voters and families in this ad, seeing as his popularity with such voters is low because of his rising popularity with Capitalists and private businessmen rather than working class families and blue-collar workers (Laurenzo para 4).

National Legislative Branch/State Executive Branch

- Gavin Newsom served as the Mayor of San Francisco from 2004 to 2010.

He has been serving as the Lieutenant Governor of California since 2011

(“Gavin Newsom” para 2). In addition to these positions, the Democratic candidate served as a member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors from 1998 to 2004. He also sat on the San Francisco’s Parking and Traffic Commission for two years starting in 1996 (“Gavin Newsom” para 2). John Cox has worked in real estate, law, venture capital, and accounting (“John Cox: Candidate Profile” Biography). In addition to his pursuit of the California gubernatorial position, Cox has attempted to achieve election to offices such as the presidency, the Senate, and the House of Representatives (“John Cox: Candidate Profile” Biography).

- Both Gavin Newsom and John Cox have promised to work on a resolution to the issue of affordable housing that has been hitting Californians hard since the housing crisis of 2008. When asked about his ideas surrounding a resolution to the problem, Cox said that California must lower costs to housing builders; he said, “I’ve been talking to developers who tell me that anywhere from \$150,000 to \$300,000 of a unit is spent on regulation and delay and interest and legal fees and environmental costs, things like this,” and claimed that “There is more than enough private investment in the world. But it only goes to places that treat it nicely” (Gutierrez para 13). On the other side, when asked about his ideas surrounding a resolution to the

housing issue, Newsom said that he would like to see developers construct around 3.5 million homes from now until 2025 (Dillon para 23). Newsom has also said that he desires a fivefold increase in a state tax credit to pay for housing for low-income families and individuals. This would be anticipated to bring the state budget cost to \$500 million a year (Dillon para 23).

Judiciary

- Neither candidate seems to have explicitly said anything about the judiciary that has been published.

Liberties and Rights

- Gavin Newsom is a strong supporter of affirmative action (“Gavin Newsom on Civil Rights” para 1), as well as shifting from group partiality to fiscal acknowledgment of all citizens (“Gavin Newsom on Civil Rights” para 3). He is a long-time supporter of gay marriage, and is arguably best-known for firmly instructing San Francisco city hall officials to issue marriage licenses for homosexual couples during his time as mayor (“Gavin Newsom on Civil Rights” para 2). John Cox, dissimilarly, says that while we should respect people’s individual behavior, we do not have to sanction it (“John Cox on Civil Rights para 1). When he said this, he was specifically speaking of gay

marriage, something that he has openly opposed for a long time. He has said that he would support a federal marriage amendment to protect American children, should he be elected into office (“John Cox on Civil Rights para 3).

Public Policy

- Policy: Education. Newsom’s stance: Supports universal preschool, mandatory kindergarten, and state funding for prenatal services, home visits by nurses, and helping ensure children ages one to three become ready for school (“Where candidates for governor stand on California’s biggest issues” para 30). Cox’s stance: Desires a “top-to-bottom” analysis and revision of California’s school system, as well as vouchers for lower class families that could be utilized at private, charter, or parochial schools (“Where candidates for governor stand on California’s biggest issues” para 28). Neither candidate has said much, if anything, about habeas corpus and due process.

Section 3:

Senate Race



Media and Culture

- Dianne Feinstein has strongly appealed to immigrant voters in her support of the DREAM Act as well as a revised comprehension immigration reform bill (“Dianne Feinstein on Immigration” para 1). She is also a prime sponsor of a bill made to reduce the backlog of naturalization and visa applications, assisting her in appealing to immigrant voters (“Dianne Feinstein on Immigration” para 2). She has also frequently appealed to female voters in her time as Senator and during her 2018 campaign: She voted yes on reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act in 2013 (“Dianne Feinstein on the Issues,” Civil Rights); and has repeatedly shown support for keeping abortion legal (“Dianne Feinstein on the Issues,” Abortion). Similarly, Kevin de Leon has appealed to female voters with a 100% voting record from planned parenthood, and a voiced belief that nurses should be allowed to perform non-surgical abortions (“Kevin de Leon on the Issues,” Abortion). He has strongly appealed to student and family voters as well, expressing many ideas for education reform. De Leon suggests that California invests budget in education, allows bilingual education in public schools, replaces school achievement tests with progress tests, and allows student sports

choice based on gender identity. He is also against the idea of vouchers, and believes in putting more money towards the public education system instead.

- Poll 1: September 17, 2018 - October 14, 2018. Results: Feinstein - 44%, de Leon - 31%. Source: LA Times/USC. Brief Description: This data shows that Feinstein holds a fairly steady lead over de Leon so far in this 2018 California Senate race.

Poll 2: October 17, 2018 - October 19, 2018. Results: Newsom - 41%, de Leon - 23%. Source: Emerson College. Brief Description: While this data shows that Feinstein has fallen slightly in the polls, de Leon has also fallen somewhat, and Feinstein still shows a steady lead over him.

- Both candidates are featured in an abundance of media coverage that is clear and reliable. They have both been interviewed and written about extensively in multiple big-name newspapers and websites. Although de Leon has far less experience than Feinstein does in participating in a Senate race, he has generally seemed to have more detailed and planned out ideas for the future, should he be elected. They both show an ability to draft plans and explain them clearly, but de Leon's are overall slightly more understandable as well as progressive.

Parties, Interest Groups, Elections/Nominations/Campaigns

- A few of Feinstein's top contributors include EMILY's List (a political action committee that was formed to help get pro-choice, Democratic females into office), Edison International (a public utility company), PG&E Corp (a natural gas company), J Street (a nonprofit liberal advocacy group), and University of California (a public university system) ("Dianne Feinstein's Campaign Finances" Table 1). Most of these contributors are government-funded institutions and political groups that likely contributed to Feinstein's campaign due to her belief in government interference, and the progression of civil rights. Similarly, de Leon has received donations from the University of California system. In addition to this, he has received donations from contributors such as Emerson Collective (a social change organization that focuses on education reform and helps secure rights for immigrants), Cordoba Corp (a Construction engineering company), and Prosperity Now (a nonprofit organization dedicated to solving wealth inequality and helping students out of debt) ("Kevin de Leon's Campaign Finances" Table 1). Many of de Leon's contributors are nonprofit organizations that focus on issues such as education reform and immigration

rights, two issues which de Leon has spoken of in abundance, and to which he has promised to pay extensive attention should he be elected into office.

- Feinstein's "Assault Weapons Ban" ad effectively appeals to her audience through ethos, pathos, and logos; seeing as it shows scenes of regular school children protesting gun violence and newspaper headlines of popular newspapers to appeal ethically; sad headlines revealing stories of kids who have been killed in acts of gun violence to appeal emotionally, and numbers/statistics to appeal logically. In this commercial, Feinstein is trying to argue that gun reform is necessary in order to keep our kids safe at school. Similarly to Feinstein, de Leon upholds the idea that we must put more effort into keeping our kids safe, but in de Leon's ad, he is talking about keeping immigrant children emotionally safe. De Leon grew up in a poor Latino household. His mother worked as a housemaid, and they struggled throughout his childhood financially. In his ad, de Leon points out how much worse it would have been for him to grow up now, in a time where immigrant children are separated from their families by ICE thanks to politicians such as President Donald Trump and his opponent Feinstein whom de Leon believes have slowed down immigration reform and assisted in the tightening of security at the border between the United States and

Mexico. The appeals strongly through pathos, with images of a young Latino boy crying as his mother is taken away by ICE. He also targets his opponents by showing various clips in which Feinstein and Trump spoke negatively about immigrants, specifically Latin-American immigrants.

National Legislative Branch/State Executive Branch

- Dianne Feinstein has served as a United States Senator from California since 1992. She also served as a ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, the thirty-eighth Mayor of San Francisco, and a member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors (“Dianne Feinstein Biography”). Kevin de Leon worked as a Senior Associate for the National Education Association in Washington D.C.; and before working in politics, he served as a community organizer, taught English as a second language, taught U.S. Citizenship, and advocated for public schools. Additionally, De León was elected to the California State Senate in 2010, then went on to become President pro Tempore of the State Senate four years later, in 2014 (“Kevin de Leon Biography”).
- Feinstein and de Leon have both spoken of fixing the broken immigration system should they be elected. Feinstein has said that she supports the

DREAM Act, and has been drafting a program to provide the agriculture industry with needed workers (“Dianne Feinstein on Immigration” para 1).

De Leon has shown strong leadership in heading the battle against law enforcement being forced to put federal immigration laws into action at all times. He successfully passed the California Values Act which helps prohibit law enforcement agencies from arresting people for immigration enforcement reasons. In addition to all of this, de Leon negotiated \$30 million to help the roughly 250,000 Dreamers in the state of California with safety net funding and legal services, should they become incapable of working to support their education (“Kevin de Leon on Immigration para 2). Should he be elected, Kevin de Leon wants to limit ICE intervention, wants to protect Dreamers from being deported, and wants to increase undocumented immigrants’ access to public service (“Kevin de Leon on the Issues”).

Judiciary

- Neither candidate seems to have explicitly said anything about the judiciary that has been published.

Liberties and Rights

- Feinstein has shown her support for the progression of civil rights many times: she voted yes on reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act, voted no on the constitutional ban on same-sex marriage, voted yes on adding sexual orientation to definition of hate crimes, and voted no on ending special funding for minority and female-owned businesses, among many other things (“Dianne Feinstein on Civil Rights”). Similarly, de Leon has shown tremendous support for minority groups and civil rights: he has advocated for the prohibition of sexual orientation conversion therapy, and has advocated on numerous occasions for the protection of various targeted minority groups including immigrants, women, and the LGBT community (“Kevin de Leon on Civil Rights”)

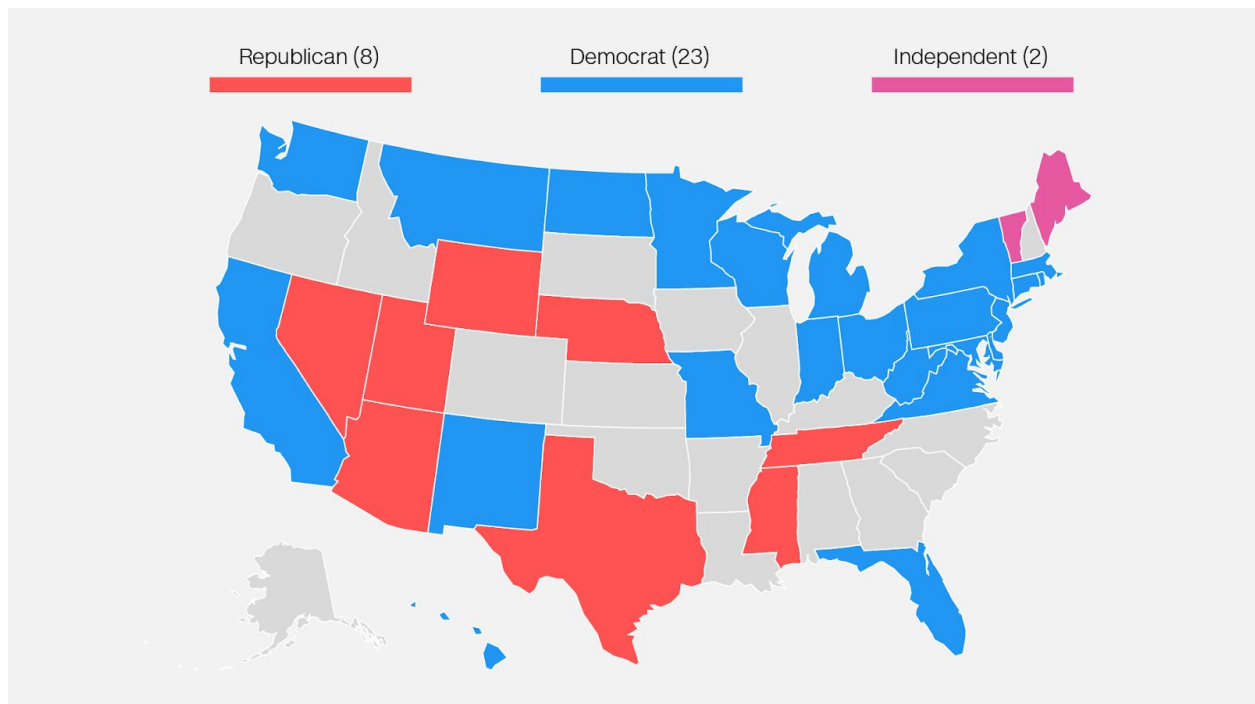
Public Policy

- Both candidates have stated their belief that the lack of gun control in the United States is a major issue that needs to be resolved urgently. Feinstein believes that the gun lobby has too much power in Washington, and believes in the licensing and federal registration of all gun sales (“Dianne Feinstein on the Issues,” Gun Control). De Leon believes that background checks for

ammo dealers are necessary, and voted yes on the creation of a wider definition of assault rifles (“Kevin de Leon on the Issues,” Gun Control).

Section 4:

U.S. Races



Senate Races

Florida

- The candidates running are Rick Scott for the Republican Party, and Bill Nelson (star incumbent) for the Democratic Party (Scott para 2).
Poll: October 25, 2018 - October 28, 2018. Results: Nelson - 45%, Scott- 43%. Source: USA Today/Suffolk.
- One major issue in this race is gun control reform. Nelson wishes to ban all assault weapons (Roth para 5). Following the shooting at the high school in Parkland last February, Nelson also sponsored numerous bills in an attempt to thwart gun violence (Roth para 7). Governor Scott, while not quite as vocal about the issue, did sign legislation that prohibits individuals under the age of twenty-one from acquiring a firearm (Roth para 8).
- Based on polling data and his large number of re-elections since he began serving in 2001, Nelson is the most likely winner of this 2018 Florida Senate race.

Arizona

- Martha McSally for the Republican Party and Kyrsten Sinema for the Democratic Party are the two candidates running in the 2018 Arizona Senate

race (Murray para 1).

Poll: October 23, 2018 - October 27, 2018. Results: Sinema - 50%, McSally - 44%. Source: NBC News (Murray chart 1).

- Both candidates have spoken about the health care system, and how it should be revised in Arizona. Sinema claims to have gone without health insurance for a portion of her life when she was younger and still living with her family, and cites this as her reason for being so supportive of affordable health care; she says, "Right now Arizonans are paying, and they're paying too much" (Glor para 8). In Congress, Sinema voted to keep coverage for people with preexisting conditions under Obamacare (Glor para 9). McSally voted to repeal Obamacare, but asserted that she still wanted individuals with preexisting conditions to be covered (Glor para 9).
- Based on polling data, Sinema seems to be the most likely winner; however, based on Arizona's voting history, McSally, the Republican candidate, has a better chance of winning. Should Sinema win, she would become the first Democrat elected to the Senate from Arizona since the 1988 Senatorial election (Glor para 11).

Missouri

- The candidates for this race are Josh Hawley for the Republican Party, and Claire McCaskill (star incumbent) for the Democratic Party (“Missouri Senate - Hawley vs. McCaskill”).

Poll: October 24, 2018 - October 25, 2018. Results: Hawley - 47.5%, McCaskill - 45.5%. Source: Missouri Scout.

- Similarly to the race in Arizona, health care has been a major issue discussed by both candidates. McCaskill has criticized Hawley, Missouri’s Attorney General, for signing Missouri onto a lawsuit attacking the Affordable Care Act (Stegmaier and Brown para 8). McCaskill believes that Hawley’s action will terminate coverage for those suffering from pre-existing conditions. Hawley believes that the Affordable Care Act must be eliminated in order to increase the popularity of private health insurers who could offer the same coverage for these individuals seeking treatment for pre-existing conditions (Stegmaier and Brown para 8).
- Based on polling data and Missouri’s red voting history, Hawley will most likely defeat McCaskill in this election.

Texas

- Ted Cruz (star incumbent) of the Republican Party and Beto O'Rourke of the Democratic Party are the two candidates running in the 2018 senatorial election (Vox Staff para 1).

Poll: October 9, 2018 - October 13, 2018. Results: Cruz - 52%, O'Rourke - 45%. Source: CNN.

- Gun control reform has been one of the most heavily debated issues in the 2018 Texas Senatorial race. Cruz has expressed his desire to mend the broken national background check system (Cobler para 11); however, his wishes to focus his efforts on gun control reform do not go far beyond this desire. O'Rourke on the other hand has been vocal about backing a renewed attempt to pass a ban on assault weapons, despite the unlikelihood that he would ever be able to push such a measure through in the nation's most gun-loving state (Cobler para 12).
- Based on polling data and Texas's blatantly Republican voting history, one could argue that it is fairly safe to say that Cruz is most likely to win this election.

West Virginia

- The two candidates running in the 2018 West Virginia senatorial election are Joe Manchin (star incumbent) of the Democratic Party, and Patrick Morrissey of the Republican Party (Midura para 2).

Poll: October 12, 2018 - October 19, 2018. Results: Manchin - 52%, Morrissey - 36%. Source: Gray Television.

- Gun control has been a major issue discussed in the 2018 Senate race. Manchin believes that the government should create a registry of people prohibited from owning a firearm for any reason; however, he is against the idea of universal background checks (Midura para 5). Morrissey does not believe that gun reform is necessary at this time, and believes that upholding the second amendment is more important (Midura image 2).
- Based on polling data and his history of popularity in the state, Manchin is most likely to win this election.

North Dakota

- Kevin Cramer of the Republican Party and Heidi Heitkamp (star incumbent) of the Democratic Party are the two candidates running in the 2018 North Dakota senatorial race (MacPherson para 1).

Poll: October 27, 2018 - October 30, 2018. Results: Cramer - 51%, Heitkamp - 42%. Source: FOX News.

- Health care has proven to be a major issue in North Dakota's 2018 race for the Senate. Cramer has said that he supports the idea of maintaining a part of Obamacare that bars insurance companies from refusing to provide coverage for people with preexisting conditions; however, he has also voted for legislation to repeal many parts of the Affordable Care Act (MacPherson para 8). Although Heitkamp has not spoken specifically regarding what she would like to change about the system, she has advocated for continuing Obama's work with the Affordable Care Act, and taking the bill even farther (Macpherson para 5).
- Based on polling data and the state's fairly red voting history, Cramer is most likely to win this election.

Nevada

- Dean Heller (star incumbent) of the Republican Party and Jacky Rosen of the Democratic Party are the two candidates running in the 2018 Nevada senatorial race ("Nevada Senate - Heller vs. Rosen").

Poll: October 24, 2018 - October 29, 2018. Results: Heller - 45%, Rosen - 48%. Source: CNN.

- Immigration has been a heated topic in this race. In June of this year, Heller expressed his disapproval of the Trump administration's policy of separating families at the border between Mexico and the United States (Fox para 11). In February, Heller voted for the Trump administration's immigration bill against a bipartisan compromise bill that could have paved a path to citizenship for those protected under DACA. Additionally, this bill would have put \$25 billion into border security (Fox para 13). While Rosen does not believe in the abolishment of ICE altogether like some of her liberal colleagues, she does believe that Nevada benefits from the presence of immigrants, and that ICE should not be so fast and aggressive in their deportation of many immigrants (Fox para 17).
- Based on polling data, it seems surprisingly likely that Rosen will defeat Heller in this election.

Tennessee

- The two candidates running in the 2018 Tennessee senatorial election are Marsha Blackburn of the Republican Party, and Phil Bredesen of the Democratic Party (“Tennessee Senate - Blackburn vs. Bredesen”).
Poll: October 27, 2018 - October 30, 2018. Results: Blackburn - 50%, Bredesen - 41%. Source: FOX News.

- Gun control has been a major issue in this race. Blackburn is openly pro-gun, and believes in the protection of the second amendment (Garrison para 3). In fact, she has been so vocal in her support of the second amendment, that she recently received an endorsement from the National Rifle Association (Garrison para 2). Although he has also shown support for the second amendment, during his time as governor, Bredesen vetoed legislation that would allow people to bring guns into bars, causing the candidate to receive negative feedback from the National Rifle Association (Garrison para 9).
- Based on polling data and the state's red voting history, it seems most likely that Blackburn will win this race.

House Races

CA 39

- Democrat Gil Cisneros and Republican Young Kim are the candidates running in this election ("California 39th District - Kim vs. Cisneros").
Poll: October 18, 2018 - October 23, 2018. Results: Cisneros - 47%, Kim - 46%. Source: The New York Times.

- Immigration has been a hot topic in this election. Despite being an immigrant herself, Kim has showed strong support of Trump's call to strengthen and enlarge border security, and also showed support for the president's opposition of California's sanctuary state laws (Daniels para 12). Dissimilarly, Cisneros has been skeptical of Trump's immigration policies, as well as his separation of families at the border (Daniels para 16).
- Based on polling data but despite the district's voting history, Cisneros seems to be most likely to win this election.

CA 48

- Republican Dana Rohrabacher (star incumbent) and Democrat Harley Rouda are the two candidates running in this election. ("California 48th District - Rohrabacher vs. Rouda").
Poll: October 17, 2018 - October 21, 2018. Results: Rohrabacher - 50%, Rouda - 48%. Source: Monmouth.
- Immigration has been a popular topic throughout the campaigning for this election. Much to Rohrabacher's disliking, Rouda has shown support for the idea of providing free Medicare for illegal immigrants (Pollak para 4). While Rohrabacher has not spoken much about his detailed immigration plans, he

has shown support for increasing border security, and believes that the United States should form better relations with Russia (Pollak para 2).

- Based on polling data, it appears as though Rohrabacher is most likely to win this election.

CA 49

- The candidates running in this election are Democrat Mike Levin and Republican Diane Harkey (California 49th District - Harkey vs. Levin).
Poll: October 19, 2018 - October 24, 2018. Results: Levin - 53%, Harkey - 39%. Source: The New York Times.
- Immigration has been a heated topic between the two candidates. Harkey agrees with Trump's immigration policies, and supports the idea of building a wall along the Mexican border. This being said, Harkey would also like to see reforms made to the visa system as well as the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program which he believes effectively provides protections for immigrants brought into the U.S. as children (Daniels para 15). Levin, dissimilarly, is skeptical of the Trump's stances and policies on immigration. He believes that ICE needs to have less power, and does not agree with the construction of a wall along the border (Daniels para 16).

- Based on fairly extreme and consistent polling data, it looks as though Levin is most likely to win this election.

CA 50

- The candidates running in this election are Republican Duncan Hunter (star incumbent) and Democrat Ammar Campa-Najjar (“California 50th District - Hunter vs. Campa-Najjar”).
Poll: October 25, 2018 - October 29, 2018. Results: Hunter - 48%, Campa-Najjar - 45%. Source: Survey USA.
- Neither candidate has spoken extensively about any particular issue, but both believe that immigration reform is needed urgently.
- Based on polling data and this district’s voting history, it looks like Hunter is most likely to claim victory at the end of this race.

Prediction of the Total Number of Republican/Democratic Seats in the House and in the Senate

I believe that Democrats have a high chance of regaining power in the House; however, I believe that the Republicans are likely to maintain power in the Senate. The Senate will likely end up with 52 Republicans

and 48 Democrats. The House will likely end up with 236 Democrats and 198 Republicans.

Summary Paper

While this election has so far proven to hold many surprises in the polls, many states will still be expected to vote the same way they usually do. Especially California, one of the bluest states in the nation, and Texas, one of the reddest states in the nation. Based on polling data, the candidates' campaign performances, and these two states' voting histories, I predict that Gavin Newsom will win the 2018 California gubernatorial race, Dianne Feinstein will win the 2018 California senatorial race, and Ted Cruz will win in the 2018 Texas senatorial race.

Gavin Newsom will likely claim victory over John Cox in the 2018 California gubernatorial race due to his vows to carry on much of Jerry Brown's work as governor, and also due to the California's staunchly liberal voting history. Newsom has a large following, and has received contributions from many ethical, nonprofit sources. A few of Newsom's top contributors include the California Medical Association, Laborers Local 220, the California Association of Professional Scientists, and the California Federation of Teachers ("Gavin Newsom's Campaign Finances"). Newsom has primarily received contributions from groups representing regular working class citizens such as teachers and electricians, likely because Newsom has spoken abundantly about affordable housing and issues relating to the well-being of middle and lower class families.

George Soros has also contributed to Newsom's campaign, giving Newsom an even bigger name and a positive association with another very liberal and famous Democrat (Menezes and Moore table 4). In addition, Newsom's opponent has primarily received donations from private business owners, supporting Capitalist values, and not aligning with the common views on Californians. the complete list of Cox's contributors include himself (he donated \$5.6 million to his own campaign, the largest donation he received by far), Geoff Palmer (Real estate developer who also contributed to Donald Trump's 2016 presidential campaign), Melba Jean and Floyd Kvamme (The owners of a therapeutic horseback riding center in Santa Cruz), Professional Financial Investors, Inc. (A property investment and management firm), Thomas and Carolyn Dauterman (The owners of Thomas Manufacturing), and Humberto Lopez (The president of HSL Properties Inc.) (Menezes and Moore table 5). In addition to the positive publicity brought about by Newsom's financial contributors, the media coverage of Newsom's ideals appear clear and in abundance. His interviews show that he is able to answer most policy questions, specifically about California's homelessness issues and housing crisis ("Gavin Newsom on the Issues"). Additionally, he has given clear responses to inquiries regarding his immigration policies, but has not talked about the issue in great abundance which is odd considering immigration laws and policies are of

major concern in the United States, and especially California which is home to many Latin-American immigrants, as well as others (Editorial Board para 5). John Cox has repeatedly shown that he is lacking in clear ideas and plans for California's growth, especially surrounding education ("Where candidates for governor stand on California's biggest issues" para 28) and housing ("Where candidates for governor stand on California's biggest issues" para 10). In response to questions surrounding these issues, Cox gave short, vague answers, whereas his opponents tended to give longer, more specific answers; for example, when asked about his education policies, Newsom stated that he "supports universal preschool, mandatory kindergarten and state funding for prenatal services, home visits by nurses and helping ensure children ages 1 to 3 become ready for school," and that he will call "for more state funding for higher education, with an emphasis on measures that will enable more students to graduate in four years" ("Where candidates for governor stand on California's biggest issues" para 30). While Newsom still leaves some of his claims and ideas with lack of a detailed explanation, Cox's response to inquiries regarding his education policies was much shorter and more vague with a much stronger lack of detail: "(John Cox) calls for a top-to-bottom review of the state school system and vouchers for low-income families that could be used at charter, private or parochial schools. Says university

professors must teach more classes to cut state costs. (“Where candidates for governor stand on California’s biggest issues” para 28). While he provides basic plans, he gives close to no indication how he plans to carry these ideas out, leaving people unable to make an educated decision. Polls have also repeatedly shown Newsom in the lead. Californians are also showing a Democratic leaning in the Senate race, displaying California’s loyalty to the Democratic Party.

Dianne Feinstein, who has consistently shown a lead over her opponent Kevin de Leon in the polls, is most likely to claim victory in the 2018 California senatorial race. Feinstein has effectively appealed to a vast number of diverse constituencies, helping her solidify her projected win. Dianne Feinstein has strongly appealed to immigrant voters in her support of the DREAM Act as well as a revised comprehension immigration reform bill (“Dianne Feinstein on Immigration” para 1). She is also a prime sponsor of a bill made to reduce the backlog of naturalization and visa applications, assisting her in appealing to immigrant voters (“Dianne Feinstein on Immigration” para 2). She has also frequently appealed to female voters in her time as Senator and during her 2018 campaign: She voted yes on reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act in 2013 (“Dianne Feinstein on the Issues,” Civil Rights); and has repeatedly shown support for keeping abortion legal (“Dianne Feinstein on the Issues,” Abortion).

Completing her solid lead, is her opponent's lack of political experience when compared with Feinstein. Dianne Feinstein has served as a United States Senator from California since 1992. She also served as a ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, the thirty-eighth Mayor of San Francisco, and a member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors ("Dianne Feinstein Biography"). Feinstein definitely seems to be the most likely victor.

Ted Cruz (star incumbent) of the Republican Party and Beto O'Rourke of the Democratic Party are the two candidates running in the 2018 senatorial election (Vox Staff para 1). A poll conducted from October 9, 2018 through October 13, 2018 showed that Cruz had a seven point lead over O'Rourke. One of the major deciding issues seems to be gun control. Gun reform has been one of the most heavily debated issues in the 2018 Texas Senatorial race. Cruz has expressed his desire to mend the broken national background check system (Cobler para 11); however, his wishes to focus his efforts on gun control reform do not go far beyond this desire. O'Rourke on the other hand has been vocal about backing a renewed attempt to pass a ban on assault weapons, despite the unlikelihood that he would ever be able to push such a measure through in the nation's most gun-loving state (Cobler para 12). Based on polling data and Texas's blatantly Republican voting

history, one could argue that it is fairly safe to say that Cruz is most likely to win this election.

Based on polling data, the candidates' campaign performances, and the voting histories of both California and Texas, it seems logical to predict that Gavin Newsom will win the 2018 California gubernatorial race, Dianne Feinstein will win the 2018 California senatorial race, and Ted Cruz will win in the 2018 Texas senatorial race.

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